

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE

February 3, 2004

AIDS is a completely preventable disease, yet the HIV/AIDS epidemic continues to spread throughout the country. AIDS is an epidemic that has affected every stratum of society, age, racial and ethnic group. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that young African –American gay men are at a greater risk for HIV infection than any other group. HIV/AIDS remains the leading cause of death in the United States for all African-Americans men between 25 and 44 years of age and the rate of death from AIDS for African-American women is 20 times greater than the rate of death from AIDS for White women and African-American men suffer a rate of death due to AIDS highest of any racial and ethnic group.

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Week is an opportunity for members of the faith community, business and civic organizations to have a frank and open discussion about HIV/AIDS in the African-American community about the impact of the disease, disseminate information on how to prevent the spread of HIV, and to increase our understanding and compassion for those with HIV/AIDS and those at risk for infection.

-M-O-R-E-

MOTION

MOLINA	_____
BURKE	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____
KNABE	_____

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February 3, 2004

Page 2

There is a critical need for increased awareness and prevention of HIV/AIDS among African-Americans, and increased HIV counseling, HIV testing as appropriate, enhanced HIV-related medical and social services for African-Americans. Racism, stigma, drug use, homophobia and poverty worsen the ordeal of those suffering from, or at risk for, HIV/AIDS it is important that all communities join together to promote tolerance, acceptance, compassion, economic justice and honest dialogue regarding the risk of infection and the plight of those infected.

The theme for National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Week 2004, "Get Educated, Get Tested and Get Involved in Advocacy for HIV/AIDS," calls us to action as individuals and collectively to learn the facts about HIV/AIDS, to test for the virus and to create an environment where people can take responsibility for themselves and others by confronting racism, stigma and discrimination across the nation so that the onslaught of death and suffering from HIV/AIDS in the African-American community will be stopped.

I, THEREFORE MOVE THAT the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors join communities in Los Angeles, Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago, Dallas, Detroit, Houston, Miami, New Orleans, New York, Oakland, Philadelphia, Raleigh-Durham, and Washington D.C., in proclaiming the week of February 2-8, 2004 as National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Week.

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